Division of North-East Communication Circle

421. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States covered by the North-East communication circle;

(b) whether there is any divisions for administrative purposes within this circle;

(c) if so, the details thereof together-with States covered by each division;

(d) whether there is a proposal for division of the existing North-East communication circle for effective control and supervision of the administration keeping in view the dispersed geographical area; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Nagaland, Tripura, Maghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh comprise N.E. Telecom circle.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details are as follows;

(1) Telecom District Manager (TDM) Tripura with HQ at Agartala covers, the State of Tripura.

(2) TDM Mizoram with HQ, at Aizwal covers the State of Mizoram.

(3) TDM Manipur with HQ. at Imphal covers the State of Manipur.

(4) TDM Dimapur with HQ. at Kohima covers the state of Nagaland.

(5) TDM Meghalaya with HQ. at Shillong covers the State of Meghalaya.

(6) TDM Itagagar with HQ. at Zero covers the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The workload does not justify any further division of the North East Telecom Circle.

गुजरात में खंड मुख्यालयों में टेलीफोन सुविधाएं

422. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) खंड मुख्यालयों में टेलीफोन सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के संबंध में सरकार की वर्तमान नीति क्या है;

(ख) उक्त नीति कब से लागू है;

(ग) गुजरात में जिला-वार कितने खंड मुख्यालयों में अभी तक टेलीफोन सुविधाएं प्रदान नहीं की गई है; और

(घ) उक्त मुख्यालयों में टेलीफोन सुविधाएं कब तक उपलब्ध कराए जाने की संभावना है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) खंड मुख्यालयों को टेलीफोन सुविधा प्रदान करने की सरकार की अलग से कोई नीति नहीं है। देश के सभी गावों को टेलीफोन सुविधा प्रदान करने की नीति है।

(ख) देश के सभी गांवों को टेलीफोन सुविधा प्रदान करने की नीति अगस्त, 1994 में अपनाई गई है।

(ग) सभी 184 ताल्लुका मुख्यालयों को टेलीफोन सुविधा प्रदान कर दी गई है।

(घ) उपर्युक्त (ग) को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Mal-functioning of telephone lines in hill districts of Uttar Pradesh

423. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had a proposal to connect all the Gram Panchayats of hill districts of Uttar Pradesh with major cities by telephone and also to provide STD facilities by the end of 1997;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the telephone lines are not functioning properly and remain out of order, particularly village Bara, Patti-Edwal Syun, District Pauri Garhwal; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to ensure smooth functioning of telephones in the hill areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Government has a policy to provide Village Public Telephone (VPT)

in each village of the country. As Panchayats are also a village, these will also be covered by a VPT. STD facility on VPT can be provided if there is a demand and it is technically feasible.

(b) No Sir. Most of the telephones are functioning properly. However telephone lines on physical overhead alignment do get affected particularly in area which are prone to snow fall and rain. Telephone service in village Bara, Patti, Edwal, Syun, Distt. Pauri Garhwal got affected due to Snow fall since 19.1.97.

(c) (i) Overhead alignment is being reduced by laying underground cables.

(ii) Work for laying optical fibre cable and work for UHF links are in progress to give long distance connectivity to distant places.

(iii) 16 VSAT Terminals have been installed and 52 more Terminals have been planned to be completed by March, 1999 in the country.

(iv) Repair work of villages mentioned in (a) above is in progress and is expected to be completed by the month end.

Providing telephone connections in Gazrajbigha village in Nalanda district

424. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons of Gazrajbigha village are waiting for telephone connections;

(b) whether the above village falls within the radial distance of 5 kms. from the Nalanda Telephone Exchange;

(c) if so, the details of the survey done; and if not, in what way Government propose to provide telephone connections in the village;

(d) whether Government propose to provide long distance connections to the registrants; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir, only one applicant Shri Raj Kishore Singh is on waiting list from Gazraj Bigha village.

(b) No Sir, village Gazraj Bigha does not fall with in radial distance of 5 KMs of Nalanda Telephone Exchange.

(c) Village Gazraj Bigha falls, under the local area of Dumrawan telephone Exchange and a telephone connection to the applicant is to be provided from Dumarawan Telephone Exchange;

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Setting up of telephone Exchange

425. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of telephone exchanges of various types which have been commissioned in the country particularly in Punjab and U.P. during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(b) the details of such telephone exchanges to be commissioned during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Details are given in the statement *(See below)*.

(b) Annual commissioning programme for the year 1997-98 has not yet been finalised.